

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The Consular Section wishes All a Happy New 2012 Year!



Greetings from the Consular Section and best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2012 to all Americans and their families in Mongolia.

We are proud to represent the United States in Mongolia and look forward to working with the American community here to make all our lives safer and to keep us all connected to our culture back home. I hope any American who needs help will contact us to see if there is anything we can do to assist. While we cannot solve all problems, we can and will make every effort to help all Americans with their difficulties. We can be particularly helpful on issues related to passports and registrations of births abroad and can give advice on voting and US federal benefits. We can also provide any American victims of crime, accidents or serious illness with help obtaining appropriate local legal and medical expertise and can offer guidance on obtaining funds from abroad for those in financial need.

We have regularly scheduled American Citizens' hours by appointment at the Embassy on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM and will respond to real emergencies at any time. Please contact us if you need our help.

Best regards for the New Year,

Phil Cargile,
Consul

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2012 Election Cycle Begins Now!

Be an active voter. Start thinking about your participation in the U.S. 2012 elections today!

The Consular Section staff at Ulaanbaatar is ready to assist with completing your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) -- the form you need to complete **this year** to participate in the 2012 elections as an overseas absentee voter. Our purpose is to inform and educate you about your voting rights, to ensure you are able to exercise your right to participate in elections for federal offices (President, Vice President, Senator, and Representative), and to assist you with voting in state or local elections, if allowed by your state.

New absentee voting laws are in effect for the 2012 elections. You will no longer automatically receive ballots based on a previous absentee ballot request. All U.S. citizens outside the United States who want to vote by absentee ballot in the 2012 primary and general elections must complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) every year if they wish to vote from abroad. States are now required to send out ballots 45 days before an election. No matter what state you vote in, you can now ask your local election officials to provide your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). You can now also confirm your registration and ballot delivery on-line. Be sure to include your email address on the form to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. This is the fastest and most reliable way to receive your ballot on time, and we strongly recommend every overseas voter take advantage of it. Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website www.FVAP.gov.

Beginning in January 2012, presidential primaries will be held in the states of New Hampshire (January 10), South Carolina (January 21), Florida (January 31), Missouri (February 7), Wisconsin (February 21), Arizona (February 28), and Michigan (February 28). Other states will follow throughout the spring and summer. Voter registration deadlines for primaries are as early as January 3, 2012. Note: Participation in party presidential caucuses by overseas voters is not protected by federal law and requires in-person attendance in most cases. If the party you are affiliated with selects presidential nominees by caucus in your state contact state party officials for further information.

You can obtain a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at FVAP's website. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories. It allows you to register to vote and request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (presidential and state primaries, run-off, special, and the November general elections) during the course of the

year. An online wizard will help you complete the form. Depending on your state's voting requirements, you then either send in the FPCA electronically or mail it to your local election officials. To mail it, print out the completed FPCA and the (U.S.) postage-paid envelope containing the address of your local election officials. If you bring in your forms or ballots to us we will mail them back home for you without you having to pay for international mail. You may drop off your completed FPCA in a postage-paid envelope during American Citizen hours on Monday and Thursday from 1:00—3:00 pm. You do not need to make an appointment to drop off your FPCA. If it's easier for you to use Mongolia's postal system, be sure to affix sufficient postage and allow sufficient time for international mail delivery.

Even if your state does not have a presidential primary in the early months of 2012, it is important that you submit a new Federal Post Card Application this and every January to receive all absentee ballots for which you are eligible. By applying early, you also allow enough time for election officials to contact you and resolve any questions or problems with your registration/ballot request.

Remember that your vote counts, and that many U.S. elections within the past ten years have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%. All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it's valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

Be an Educated Voter. Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain via numerous websites such as Project Smart Voter. You can also read national and hometown newspapers on-line, or search the Internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fvap) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/fvap).

If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact Ulaanbaatar's Voting Assistance Officer at 329-095, or at voteulaanbaatar@state.gov.

Sign-up Now for State-Specific Election Information

You can now subscribe to receive election information via email and text message specific to your State of legal voting residence. A new, more advanced Electronic Subscription System the Federal Voting Assistance Program recently launched allows subscribers to receive state-specific information, news releases, social media updates, and more.

Start a new subscription today or refine your existing subscription at <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/subscription.html>.

The new system provides you integrated functionality allowing your messages to be targeted based on your location and state of voting residence. You can add or delete subscription items at any time and have the option to password protect your account. Your contact information will only be used to deliver the requested information or to give you access to your profile and subscriptions.

Upcoming Holidays

January 2—New Year's Day (observed)

January 16 —Martin Luther King Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11323-788
After-hours
or emergency number: 9911-4168
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

Americans Encouraged to Take the Foreign Service Test in Mongolia

U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar will be administering the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) in Mongolia on Saturday, February 4th at 9:00 am. American citizens interested in careers in the Foreign Service are encouraged to visit <http://careers.state.gov> to learn more about what the Foreign Service does and to register online for the test.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Philippines](#) 12/22/2011
[Senegal](#) 12/12/2011
[South Pacific Cyclone Season](#) 12/12/2011
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 12/09/2011
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 12/22/2011
[Syria](#) 12/21/2011
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 12/16/2011
[Afghanistan](#) 12/01/2011
[Burundi](#) 11/25/2011
[Bahrain](#) 11/18/2011
[Thailand](#) 11/16/2011
[Liberia](#) 11/09/2011
[Egypt](#) 11/07/2011
[Eritrea](#) 11/04/2011
[Kenya](#) 11/04/2011
[Guinea](#) 11/04/2011
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 11/03/2011
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 11/03/2011

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

